

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 12872 01 OF 02 081711Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W
-----035620 081830Z /45

R 081630Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6399
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 12872

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: DC REBUTS "DISTORTED" PCI POLITICAL INTERPRETATIONS
OF PROGRAM

REF: ROME 12608

SUMMARY: IN AN AUTHORITATIVE STATMENT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
(DC) PARTY POLICY, PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI LABLED
AS "DISTORTED" PCI INTERPRETATIONS OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD
AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT
MAJORITY. HE RULED OUT A DC-PCI ALLIANCE AS "UNTHINKABLE"
AND CALLED ON THE DC TO OPPOSE PCI (AND PSI) EFFORTS "TO
BROADEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACCORD." DC LEADERS HAVE
DOWNPLAYED LAST WEEK'S SURPRISE MEETING
BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND THE PARTY SECRETARIES,
CHOOSING TO EMPHASIZE ITS EXCEPTIONAL NATURE DURING PARLIAMENT'S
RECESS WHILE MAKING CLEAR THEIR OPPOSITION TO PERIODIC
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 12872 01 OF 02 081711Z

GOVERNMENT-PARTY MEETINGS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAM ACCORD. END SUMMARY.

1. IN NIEW OF THE CONTINUING DEBATE OVER INTERPRE-
TATION OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD, ABATED ONLY
SOMEWHAT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY RECESS AND SUMMER
HOLIDAYS, THE DC DECIDED TO PUBLISH MAIN EXTRACTS

OF THE MAJOR SPEECH THAT PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI HAD INTENDED TO DELIVER AT THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON JULY 30, A SESSION POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER WHEN ZACCAGNINI BROKE HIS LEG. AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF DC POLICY, ZACCAGNINI'S SPEECH CONTAINS AN EXPLICIT REBUTTAL OF PCI ATTEMPTS TO PORTRAY THE ACCORD AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD REALIZATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT MAJORITY OF ALL THE SIX PARTIES OF THE SO-CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL ARC.

2. DESCRIBING THE PCI'S INTERPRETATION AS "DISTORTED," ZACCAGNINI DENIES THAT THE SIX-PARTY ACCORD CONSTITUTES "THE ANTEROOM OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE" AND RULES OUT AS "UNTHINKABLE" ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES BOTH THE DC AND THE PCI. THE DC WILL CONTINUE TO "OPPOSE FIRMLY" ANY GOVERNMENTAL ALLIANCE WITH THE PCI FOR REASONS OF ITS "POLITICAL IDENTITY, ITS CHOICE, AND ITS ELECTORAL MANDATE." HE CALLED ON THE DC TO OPPOSE PCI AND PSI MOVES TO "BROADEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACCORD IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM IT INTO AN ORGANIC GOVERNMENT PROGRAM." INSTEAD, THE PRESENT POLITICAL PHASE SHOULD LEAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO A CLEARER DETERMINATION OF THE DISTINCT ROLES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION. ALTHOUGH THE ACCORD ESTABLISHES A NEEDED CONSENSUS TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCY PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 12872 01 OF 02 081711Z

ORDER, ZACCAGNINI SAID ITS DURATION IS "TRULY TRANSITORY". MOREOVER, THE ACCORD SPECIFICALLY LEAVES "AMPLE ROOM" FOR "CRITICISM AND EVEN OPPOSITION" ON THE PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL PARTIES WITHIN THE BROAD FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSENSUS.

3. ZACCAGNINI'S WARNINGS AGAINST PCI AND PSI "MIS-INTERPRETATIONS" OF THE ACCORD WERE ECHOED IN A WEEKEND SPEECH BY CHAMBER MAJORITY LEADER PICCOLI. SPEAKING IN LIGURIA, PICCOLI STRESSED THAT THE ACCORD "MUST REMAIN WITHIN THE TERMS IN WHICH IT WAS FORMULATED AND AGREED UPON." HE WARNED THAT THOSE WHO "WISH TO TRANSFORM IT INTO A NEW POLITICAL MAJORITY" DO EVERYONE A DISSERVICE. IF THE COOPERATION ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE PARTIES "IN A TIME OF EMERGENCY" WERE SET BACK, THE COUNTRY COULD "BE BROUGHT TO THE BRINK OF A VERY DANGEROUS POLITICAL RUPTURE."

4. MEANWHILE, DC LEADERS HAVE REFRAINED FROM ARGUMENTATIVE COMMENTS ON PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S AUGUST 2 SURPRISE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARIES OF THE SIX PARTIES WHICH SUPPORT HIS GOVERNMENT (REFTEL). THE POSITIONS

TAKEN BY VARIOUS DC PARTY LEADERS, HOWEVER, LEAVE NO DOUBT
THAT ANDREOTTI'S APPARENT BID TO INSTITUTIONALIZE SUCH
"CONSULTATIVE" MEETINGS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM
ACCORD ON A MONTHLY BASIS IS OPPOSED WITHIN THE PARTY.
AMPLIFYING HIS INITIAL OBJECTIONS TO PERIODIC MEETINGS,
DEPUTY SECRETARY GALLONI SAID THAT "PARLIAMENT IS THE
NATURAL PLACE FOR THE CONTROL OVER GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES."
ANDREOTTI'S MEETING WAS JUSTIFIED SINCE PARLIAMENT WAS
NOT IN SESSION. FANFANI ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING HE
FOUND NOTHING OBJECTIONABLE IN OCCASIONAL INFORMATIVE
MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PARTY
SECRETARIES. HOWEVER, A PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF PARTY
SECRETARIES TO CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES
WOULD BE AN "UNCONSTITUTIONAL" INFRINGEMENT ON
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ROME 12872 01 OF 02 081711Z

PARLIAMENT'S ROLE. REFERRING TO THE POLITICAL
PRECARIOUSNESS OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD, PICCOLI SAID
IT WAS "PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT THE PARTIES DID
NOT IMPOSE ANY CONDITIONS FOR VERIFICATION OR CONTROL,
NOR DID THEY CONSIDER ANY (CONTROL) COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY
SECRETARIES OR PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HEADS." THIS, PICCOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 12872 02 OF 02 081727Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W
-----035865 081831Z /45

R 081630Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6400
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 12872

SAID, WOULD HAVE MEANT "A POLITICAL SHIFT," SOMETHING THAT BOTH THE DC AND THE "GREAT MAJORITY OF ITALIANS" REFUTE.

5. ANDREOTTI HIMSELF LEFT THE QUESTION OPEN. ASKED WHETHER HE ANTICIPATED OTHER MEETINGS WITH THE PARTY SECRETARIES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD, THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT FOR NOW, THERE WOULD BE "A LITTLE VACATION." AFTERWARDS, HE SAID, ONE WOULD SEE.

6. COMMENT: DC LEADERS HAVE DOWN-PLAYED LAST WEEK'S SURPRISE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PARTY SECRETARIES, CHOOSING TO EMPHASIZE ITS EXCEPTIONAL, ONE- TIME "CONSULTATIVE" NATURE AND FACT THAT PARLIAMENT (THE APPROPRIATE LOCATION FOR GOVERNMENT-PARTY CONSULTATIONS) WAS IN RECESS. THE DC CONTINUES TO PLACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 12872 02 OF 02 081727Z

A HIGH PREMIUM ON PARTY UNITY, AND, IN PICCOLI'S WORDS, IS WELL AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF "UTILIZING EVERY DIFFICULTY, EVERY DOUBT, EVERY SUSPICION TO SET OFF A STORM." IN HIS STATEMENT, ZACCAGNINI PLEDGED THE DC'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD PRODUCED "EXCELLENT RESULTS." THE PARTY LEADER'S AUTHORITATIVE RESTATEMENT OF THE STRICT POLITICAL LIMITS OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD, THOUGH DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT THE PCI, WAS ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED TO REASSURE SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS WITHIN THE DC WHO HAVE BEEN TROUBLED BY THE INTERPARTY AGREEMENT.
HOLMES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, PARTY UNITY, COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME12872
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770284-1115
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770885/aaaacual.tel
Line Count: 211
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c18dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 12608
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1673957
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DC REBUTS \"DISTORTED\" PCI POLITICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF PROGRAM
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c18dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009